

REMARKS

The Office Action has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The specification has been amended at paragraph 0018. Claims 1, 8, and 20 are also amended. No claim are canceled or added. Thus, claims 1-22 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Rejection based on Ishikawa

Claims 1-9, 13-14, 16, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese reference 405139231 ("Ishikawa"). The rejection should be withdrawn because Ishikawa fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 (as amended) recites a "decorative element for an airbag module cover comprising: a rear side for contacting the airbag module cover, and predetermined breaking points and/or bending points." Amended independent claim 20 includes a similar feature. Ishikawa does not disclose or suggest this feature. In particular, Ishikawa discloses a decorative element 14 for an air airbag module cover 11 but the breaking points and/or bending points 13A are on the cover 11 not on the decorative element. The decorative element 14 is designed to stay intact upon deployment of the airbag and to remain attached to one side of the cover 11.

Claims 2-9, 13-14, 16, and 21-22 depend from either claim 1 or claim 20 and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Ishikawa are respectfully requested.

Rejection based on Ishikawa and Schneider.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference 405139231 ("Ishikawa") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0178819 ("Schneider"). The rejection should be withdrawn because the combination of Ishikawa and Schneider fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 10-12 depend from claim 1 and contained all the features of claim 1. As previously mentioned, Ishikawa fails to disclose, teach, or suggest breaking points and/or

bending points 13A on the decorative element. Schneider does not cure this deficiency. Thus, claims 10-12 are allowable therewith for at least this reason without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on the combination of Ishikawa and Schneider are respectfully requested.

Rejection based on Ishikawa and Schneider.

Claims 15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference 405139231 ("Ishikawa"). The rejection should be withdrawn because Ishikawa fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 15 and 17-19 depend from claim 1 and contained all the features of claim 1. As previously mentioned, Ishikawa fails to disclose, teach, or suggest breaking points and/or bending points on the decorative element. No reference has been set forth that cures this deficiency. Thus, claims 15 and 17-19 are allowable therewith for at least this reason without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Ishikawa are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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